

Message Text

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44

ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 IO-06 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 /028 W

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R 301420Z NOV 76

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9044

INFO AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS GABORONE 2206

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (CLARK, DICK)

SUBJECT: CODEL CLARK, AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE IN GABORONE

REF: GABORONE 2192

1. NOVEMBER 30 BOTSWANA DAILY NEWS CARRIED FRONT PAGE ACCOUNT OF CLARK PRESS CONFERENCE TOGETHER WITH LARGE PHOTO OF SMILING PRESIDENT KHAMA GREETING THE SENATOR.
2. ACCORDING TO ACCOUNT, CLARK BELIEVES MAJORITY RULE IN ZIMBABWE POSSIBLE WITHIN 15 MONTHS IF BRITAIN ASSUMES SOME OF HER RESIDUAL POWERS AND IF SMITH SINCERELY PREPARED TO TRANSFER POWER TO BLACKS.
3. CLARK SUGGESTED THAT BRITAIN APPOINT A COMMISSIONER RESPONSIBLE FOR INTERNAL ORDER DURING TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT IN ZIMBABWE. BLACKS HAVE OVER THE YEARS LOST CONFIDENCE ABOUT RHODESIAN WHITES AND THEREFORE CANNOT ENTRUST THESE PORTFOLIOS TO THEM (DEFENSE AND JUSTICE) . ON THE OTHER HAND, EUROPEAN SETTLERS IN ZIMBABWE ARE NOT PREPARED TO ACCEPT A BLACK CHIEF JUSTICE OR COMMZANDER OF THE ARMY. THIS CREATES A DIFFICULT SITUATION.

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RM CLARK SAID THAT ALL GENEVA PARTICIPANTS SHOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE OCCASION FOR IT MIGHT BE THE LAST OPPORTUNITY. IF IT (THE CONFERENCE) FAILS, IT WOULD MEAN MANY YEARS OF WARFARE.

5. CLARK SAID HIS SOUTHERN AFRICAN TRIP AIMED AT MAKING INDEPENDENT JUDGEMENT OF AFRICAN PROBLEMS. HE SAID EMPHASIS OF TRIP WOULD BE TO ENCOURAGE JUST AND REASONABLE SETTLEMENT OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEMS, RATHER THAN VIOLENCE AS SOLUTION.

6. CLARK EMPHASIZED THAT THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT RECOGNIZE THE SO-CALLED INDEPENDENT TRANSKEI. DURING HIS ATTENDANCE AS CO-CHAIRMAN OF THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN DIALOGUE MEETING IN MASERU, HE WOULD LIKELY HAVE FINANCIAL DISCUSSIONS WITH LESOTHO AUTHORITIES CONCERNING THE RECENT TRANSKEI BORDER CLOSURES WITH LESOTHO.

7. CLARK AFFIRMED IT IS NOT AMERICAN POLICY TO RECRUIT MERCENAIRES TO FIGHT IN AFRICA OR OTHER COUNTRIES. IT IS A WELL-KNOWN FACT THAT AMERICA PROVIDED FUNDS FOR SOME LIBERATION MOVEMENT IN ANGOLA. BUT WHEN I DISCOVERED THAT, I PROPOSED A BILL TO CUT OFF ALL FUNDS FOR AMERICAN PARTICIPATION IN ANGOLA. ACCORDING TO THE PRESS ACCOUNT, THIS WAS SAID IN RESPONSE TO RECENT DISCLOSURE BY A FORMER LONDON-BASED CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY AGENT THAT THE UNITED STATES VOTED FOR SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF MONEY TO FINANCE MERCENARY FIGHTING IN ANGOLA.

8. ON NAMIBIA CLARK SAID THAT THE UNITED STATES MAINTAINS THAT THE UNITED NATIONS SHOULD SUPERVISE ELECTIONS TO GIVE INDEPENDENCE TO THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLE OF NAMIBIA.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 NOV 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976GABORO02206
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760443-1046
From: GABORONE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976115/aaaaadsf.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION H
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 GABORONE 2192
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ullricre
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 AUG 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 AUG 2004 by castelsl>; APPROVED <13 SEP 2004 by ullricre>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CODEL CLARK, AIRPORT PRESS CONFERENCE IN GABORONE
TAGS: OREP, (CLARK, DICK)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006